

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 10, 2006

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman
Ginny Russell, Selectman Representative
John Kane, Precinct Representative
Russ Bernstein
Maury Friedman
Dick Hansen
William Lally
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Charlie Preston

Unexcused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey observed a moment of silence for the passing of Howard Stickney, former Fire Chief.

Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2005

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2005.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Bernstein, Lally, Latimer, Lessard). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the purpose of this meeting was to review and recommend or not recommend the Money Warrant Articles to Public Hearing.

Article 38 – Supplement for Mosquito Control

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Hanson, to recommend Article 38.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 38..

Article 41 – Matching Funds to Purchase Property on Woodland Road

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Preston, to recommend Article 41.

Ms. Latimer asked what would happen if the article passed and the sale did not go forward. Mark Gerreald, Town Counsel, said the money would not be spent and would go to the general fund.

Mr. Preston praised the work done by the Conservation Commission.

Ellen Goethel of the Conservation Commission explained about the Conservation Fund. She said its purpose is to manage and procure rights to lands and properties. The Commission has not requested any money for four years.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Friedman, Kane, Latimer, Pierce). Motion passed to recommend Article 41.

Article 47 – Grave Space at High Street Cemetery

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Lally, to recommend Article 47.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed to recommend Article 47.

Article 28 – Appropriation to Cemetery Burial Trust Fund

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to recommend Article 28.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 28.

Article 17 – Repairs to Lane Memorial Library

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend Article 17.

Mr. Friedman asked if it was prudent to spend this money now if there will be a new facility in the future. Catherine Redden, Lane Memorial Library, replied that a new facility is 7 to 10 years in the future and at that time the building would still be a public building.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 17.

Article 18 – 2006 Children's Christmas Parade

Moved by Mr. Lally, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend Article 18.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 18.

Article 26 – Police Forfeiture Fund and Article 27 – Hampton Cable TV Local Origination Fund

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend Articles 26 and 27.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Articles 26 and 27.

Article 25 – Installation of infrastructure for and/or ornamental street lighting in Hampton Beach Village District

Moved by Mr. Kane, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Article 25.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 25.

Social Service Articles 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, and 53

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend the Social Service Articles.

Ms. Russell reminded the Committee that all money given to these agencies is spent on Hampton residents.

Chairman Woolsey said that in 2005 the Social Service agencies were wiped out of the budget because of the default.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend the Social Service Articles.

Article 9 – Town Wastewater Treatment Plant

Moved by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend Article 9.

Chairman Woolsey asked if the point is being reached where the system at the wastewater treatment plant is being “bandaided”. John Hangen, Director of Public Works, said that this is true. The plant is 35 years old. It is time to replace the roof, generator, etc.

Mr. Lally said he thought this was one of the most important things to get accomplished this year.

Mr. Nichols asked when the last major repair took place. Mr. Hangen said that this is not a major repair and the last major one took place approximately 4 years ago.

Mr. Friedman asked what the affect on the tax rate would be. James Barrington, Town Manager, said he will get that number in time for the deliberative session.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 9.

Article 13 – Road Repairs

Moved by Mr. Kane, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend Article 13.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 13.

Article 15 – Ashworth Avenue and High Street Parking Lots

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Lally, to recommend Article 15.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 15.

Article 16 – Services to design and prepare cost estimates for Sewer Extension

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Friedman, to NOT recommend Article 16.

Ms. Russell said she feels it is time this sewer extension was done. Mr. Preston said he agreed.

Mr. Plouffe asked what is happening with the 201 Facilities Plan. Mr. Hangen said work is being done on it.

Mr. Hangen said that it is important to think about consequences. To add sewer would open up the area to development and some do not want this. He also reminded the Committee that it would cost around \$30 million to sewer the whole west side.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Preston, Russell). Motion passed to NOT recommend Article 16.

Article 19 – Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Kane, to recommend Article 19.

Jamie Sullivan, Hampton Police Chief, explained that this request is for funds for the care of the horses and rider training. He said this patrol is an historical Hampton landmark, provides a crowd control tool and provides a public service.

Chairman Woolsey asked if there are private donations. Chief Sullivan said that there are many and that it is through these donations that the horses are purchased.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed to recommend Article 19.

Article 22 –Private Detail Revolving Fund

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Lally, to recommend Article 22.

Chairman Woolsey explained that this is a new type of fund. This fund would be set in place permanently and would not have to be voted on every year. Attorney Gerreald said that this article has been reviewed and amended by DRA.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 22.

Article 23 – Purchase and “set up” of new police cruisers (in the event Article 22 is defeated)

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend Article 23.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 23.

Article 24 – Discontinuance of Fire Alarm Fund and Town Fire Alarm Service

Moved by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend Article 24.

Hank Lipe, Hampton Fire Chief, said that the purpose of this article is twofold. First, to rescind the SRF set up in 2003, and secondly, to see if the public wants or does not want the Fire Department to provide this system. In the majority of towns this service is provided by a third party.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 24.

Article 20 – Ambulance Service Revolving Fund

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Article 20.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 20.

Article 10 – Purchase of Ladder Truck

Moved by Mr. Lally, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Article 10.

Chief Lipe explained that this is a much needed item. Another ladder has deteriorated. The truck is 26 years old and no longer meets safety standards.

Chairman asked if this truck, with reasonable care, could last for 20 years. Chief Lipe replied that it could.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously to recommend Article 10.

Article 7 – Construction of Fire Department Headquarters Facilities Uptown

Moved by Mr. Lally, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to recommend Article 7.

Chairman Woolsey said she felt this request had been pulled together very quickly and this makes her skeptical.

Vote: 8 yes, 5 no (Bernstein, Friedman, Nichols, Pierce, Woolsey). Motion passed to recommend Article 7.

Article 8 – Relocation of Old District Courthouse

Moved by Mr. Kane, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to NOT recommend Article 8.

Vote: 11 yes, 1 no (Russell), 1 abstention (Preston). Motion passed to NOT recommend Article 8.

Article 49 – Hiring of 8 Additional Firemen

Moved by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Article 49.

Chairman Woolsey said that it is important to train new firemen and she was very much in favor of this article. Mr. Hansen asked if we really need these additional firemen. Chief Lipe said there is a need for more personnel to be more efficient and to cut down on overtime.

Mr. Bernstein said that perhaps hiring 4 new firemen rather than 8 would be a better decision at this time and be more palatable to the voters. Mr. Lally said he agreed with Mr. Bernstein. Chairman Woolsey said that the voters never voted to eliminate staff, they voted for a default budget. Mr. Pierce said that he was definitely opposed to this article because there was \$1.4 million left over from last year. Mr. Nichols also opposed the article.

Vote: 4 yes, 7 no (Bernstein, Friedman, Hansen, Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Preston), 2 abstentions (Lally, Lessard). Motion to recommend Article 49 failed.

Article 12 – Exeter Road Bike Path/Road Widening Project

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to NOT recommend Article 12.
Mr. Barrington said the Selectmen will not proceed with this article unless the grant is received.

Vote: 8 yes, 5 no (Bernstein, Latimer, Pierce, Preston, Russell). Motion passed to NOT recommend Article 12.

Article 14 – Rebuilding of Tennis and Basketball Courts at Tuck Field

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Lessard to NOT recommend Article 14.

Vote: 6 yes, 7 no (Bernstein, Friedman, Hansen, Kane, Lally, Latimer, Preston) Motion failed to NOT recommend Article 14.

Article 21 – Establishment of Recreation Revolving Fund

Moved by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Kane, to recommend Article 21.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Pierce, Woolsey). Motion passed to recommend Article 21.

Chairman Woolsey said that after the Public Hearing, articles can be revisited if the Committee so wishes. She also asked the Committee members to submit any suggestions they may have for the Board of Selectmen on Thursday evening.

Chairman Woolsey said that the Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Academy Junior High School. The next regular meeting of the Budget Committee will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Hampton Budget Committee
January 10, 2006
Page 7

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Hansen, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman